(c) whether over 100 Russian firms are already involved in the setting up of two under contruction 1,000 MW units in Koodankulam;

(d) if so, whether these projects would be funded by India; and

(e) by when they would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A memorandum of intent indicating that an Inter Governmental Agreement would be entered into for construction of four additional units at Kudankulam as also possible additional units at other sites in India was signed with the Russian Federation during the visit of President Putin to India in January, 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The completion of units 1 & 2 is expected in 2008/2009 respectively.

India's joining of ITER project

1210. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has joined the International Thermo nuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project;

(b) if so, the details about Government's fiscal involvement in this project;

(c) whether Government have planned to constitute any authoritative board for the effective implementation of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fiscal involvement of the Government in this project is Rs. 2500 crore (Rupees two thousand five hundred crore) over a ten year period, most of which will be in-kind contribution in the form of supply of high tech equipments by Indian industries.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Government has approved constitution of an Empowered Board by the Governing Council of Institute for Plasma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar, with sufficient powers required for effective implementation of the project within the framework of the agreement signed among the parties to the ITER and ITER International Organization and also within the sanctioned cost of the project

(e) Does not arise, in view of the (d) above.